

## **How to Serve on the Cotton Board**

Members of the Cotton Board are nominated by the industry and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Members serve a vital role in overseeing the Cotton Research and Promotion Program's operations. It is USDA's policy that board membership accurately reflect the diversity of individuals served by the programs. Therefore, USDA encourages eligible women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to seek nomination to serve on the board and participate in their deliberations.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Cotton Board is currently composed of 34 members and 34 alternate members (22 producer and 12 importer members and alternate members) and one consume advisor. The Cotton Research and Promotion Program statute do not state a maximum number of members that can serve on the Cotton Board. Rather, the program's statute state that for cotton producers each cotton-producing state shall have at least one member and an additional member for each 1 million bales or major fraction (more than half) thereof of cotton produced and marketed in the cotton producing state. For importers, the program statue state that importers shall not be less than two members and shall be represented by an appropriate number of importer representatives as determined by the Secretary.

**NEXT TERM OF OFFICE:** January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008. All members and alternate members serve three-year terms.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** In accordance with the statute nominees to the Cotton Board must representatives of cotton producers and importers and nominated by Certified Producer Organization(s) and Certified Importer Organization(s), respectively.

**NOMINATION PROCESS:** Certified Producer and Importer Organizations, approved by the Department, nominate individuals to serve on the Cotton Board. Certified Producer Organizations are major state organizations that represent producers such as the Farm Bureau Federation, farmer cooperatives, or other well-recognized producer organizations. Certified Importer Organizations are organizations that represent importers.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you would like addition information about the membership on the Cotton Board or becoming a certified producer or importer organization please contact:

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